The United States Fire Administration Y2K Newsletter

USFA Y2K INFORMATION OFFICE

Emmitsburg, Maryland

The United States Fire Administration is pleased to announce the establishment of an office dealing with the Y2K issues of the American fire service. We will be collecting and disseminating information on assessment tools, readiness status, problems and solutions, contingency planning and rumor control.

Our focus is the fire service and our role is to provide a vehicle for sharing information. While we cannot provide individualized technical assistance, we can facilitate a network for finding answers among our colleagues. There will be regular mailings of Y2K news to the major fire service organizations and individual fire departments.

Questions?
Information to share?

www.usfa.fema.gov/y2k/

(301) 447-1328 *10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. EST*
USFA Y2K INFORMATION OFFICE

16825 South Seton Avenue
Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727

Are Your Critical Systems Ready?

Countdown to Y2K...

Any computer or computer driven product could be affected by the Y2K problem. This is more than just computers. It includes anything with embedded computer chips. Conduct an internal inventory to identify all items that may contain chip technology and all the services that depend on them. You should request letters certifying Y2K compliance from all your applicable vendors and manufacturers. Be sure to insist that they describe the methods they used to determine compliance. You may find some of the following sources of help to you in your search to verify the Y2K readiness status of your equipment. Trade associations have many links to manufacturers and other organizations:

FAMA Fire Apparatus Manufacturers Association
29 Stillman Road   P.O.B. 397
Lynnfield, MA 01940-0397
Fax/telephone (781) 334-2911
www.fama.org/fcmbrshp.htm

FEMSA Fire & Emergency Manufacturers & Services Organization
P.O.B. 147
Lynnfield, MA 01940-0147
 (781) 334-2771
www.femsa.org/links.asp

FCC   Federal Communications Commission Information and links for communication systems and radios
www.fcc.gov/year2000/links-manufact.html
FCC Task Force (202) 418-2379

Readiness Surveys and Status Reports

Since January 1999, USFA has been working on the assessment of Y2K readiness of the Nation's fire service. The National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) agreed to assist by asking 10 representative departments in each state to complete a readiness survey. Unfortunately, as of 15 April 1999 responses have been received from only 144 departments in 25 states. That's far short of the 50-state sample of 500 departments that is necessary for a good snapshot of the situation. Of those departments responding to the survey to date, **95% are confident that they will be ready on 1 January 2000**. Unfortunately, only 40% have contingency plans in place.

TO DATE WE HAVE RECEIVED INPUT FROM: Alabama Arizona California Colorado Florida Georgia Hawaii Idaho Illinois Iowa Kentucky Louisiana Maryland Minnesota Mississippi Missouri Nevada New Mexico North Carolina North Dakota Ohio Tennessee Utah Vermont Wyoming

You can help us get a clearer picture by participating in *one* of the following:

➢ Contacting your State Fire Marshal to participate in the NASFM Survey

➢ Completing the comment form at www.usfa.fema.gov/y2k/y2kform.htm

➢ Calling us at (301) 447-1328

Rumor Control

Three common rumors regarding the failure of fire department equipment to function as a result of the Y2K date change are debunked:

• It was reported that in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, aerial ladders flunked the Y2K test. The Fire Department's Public Affairs officer says that a department representative had been misquoted. There are no problems with the ladders.

• Several people reported a rumor that emergency vehicles at a government facility in New Mexico failed to start when set for 1 January 2000. The General Services Administration has tested the vehicles and reports no problems.

• Seattle-Tacoma International Airport was reported as having problems with computer chips in their fire trucks.   Sea-Tac officials confirm that there were no chip malfunctions demonstrated when testing the fire trucks.

 Let us hear from you. If you've got a rumor, we'll try to check it out and report back.

A Guide for State and Local Emergency Managers

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has developed a document entitled "Contingency and Consequence Management Planning for Year 2000 Conversion." This guide deals with identifying potential problems and risk assessment; keeping organizations operational; informing and assisting the public; and developing and implementing Y2K consequence management plans. You can order free copies of this guide by calling 1 (800) 480-2520.
Download the guide in portable document format (PDF) at www.fema.gov/y2k/ccmp.htm.
For Adobe Acrobat Reader use link: www.usfa.fema.gov/sitehelp.htm

TIME PHASES OF PLANNING PROCESS				
	Identify problem areas	February – March 1999		
	Develop plan	March - May 1999		
	Test the plan	Train response personnel Jun - Jul 1999	Conduct drills and exercises Jul - Nov 1999	Revise the plan as needed Up to Nov 1999
	Implement the plan	Inform the public Feb 1999 - Jan 2000	Acquire Resources May - Jun 1999	Activate the plan Dec 1999 - Jan 2000